



The Cabin Connection

A publication of the Asset Inspection Division of the Texas General Land Office • Jerry Patterson, Commissioner

May 2009

A Message from Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson



Welcome to the Spring 2009 edition of the Cabin Connection.

It's been another busy and challenging year at the Texas General Land Office as the staff continues working on issues related to Hurricanes Ike and Dolly.

This edition of *Cabin Connection* features an article on the 2008 hurricane season's impact on the cabin program and how it's recovering. For more information on the GLO's overall response to these storms, please visit the GLO Web site at www.glo.state.tx.us.

This edition also spotlights a new cabin bid offering set for June 2009, as well as photos, recipes and a few tips to remember as you spend time at your cabin.

As always, feel free to contact us with any questions, concerns or ideas for improvement. It's permit holders, like you, that make this unique program possible and we would like to thank you for your continued participation. Have a safe and happy summer along the Texas coast!

JERRY PATTERSON
Commissioner, Texas General Land Office

2009 Cabin Permit Bid Offering

This spring, the General Land Office (GLO) is offering two cabin permits on a sealed bid basis. The permits are for two cabin sites located in Kenedy County in the Laguna Madre-Land Cut area. Previous bid offerings have been very successful and have allowed new people into the cabin permit program. Bid packets are available online at

www.glo.state.tx.us. Bid packets must be received by the GLO by 5 p.m. on June 12th, 2009. As always, this bid offering will NOT affect our current permit holders, and only one cabin permit per person, immediate family, organization or group is allowed. For more information on the cabin permit bid offering, call 361-825-3038.

2008 Hurricane Season Leaves its Mark on Cabins

by Amy Nuñez, Cabin Coordinator

The 2008 hurricane season was one of the most destructive in recent history. On July 23, 2008, Hurricane Dolly made landfall on South Padre Island as a Category I hurricane. Eleven of the 38 cabin permits located in Willacy and Cameron counties were completely destroyed by the storm, with 13 more sustaining minor or moderate damage. On September 13, 2008, Hurricane Ike made landfall on Galveston Island as a Category II storm, with the storm surge of a Category IV. Of the 89 cabins in Brazoria County, 46 were completely destroyed and the remaining 43 were damaged in some form. Cabins as far north as San Antonio Bay had pier and dock damage from the high water levels associated with Hurricane Ike.

As soon as each storm passed, General Land Office (GLO) staff members began assessing damage to all structures located in the bays and along the Gulf Coast, including cabins. Initially, I took part in a helicopter flyover for an overall survey of the hurricane-ravaged areas. In the following days, GLO staffers visited

the affected areas by boat and took photos of each cabin to document the damage and assess its condition. When a permit holder called with questions, staff members were able to look at a post-storm photo of the cabin in question and discuss rebuilding options.

Permit holders affected by Hurricane Ike received a letter from Deputy Commissioner Rene Truan



Cabin Coordinator Amy Nuñez surveys damage to the lower Texas coast after Hurricane Dolly during this July 24, 2008 Coast Guard helicopter flight.

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Please send us photographs, stories, recipes or any other items of interest for future newsletters. We welcome your input.

2008 Hurricane Season Leaves its Mark

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authorizing a one-year time frame to rebuild the cabin and associated structures to the approved footprint (labeled Exhibit C) in the permit contract.

Permit holders who are rebuilding must remove all derelict pilings and other debris from their old cabins and abide by any special conditions in their permits. GLO staff members have worked with permit holders to ensure all structures are rebuilt or repaired in accordance with Texas Statutes, Texas Administrative Codes and their permit contracts.

Many thanks go out to affected permit holders for all their hard work. Most of the cabins are well on their way to being rebuilt and ready to once again provide hours of relaxation along the Texas coast.



Cabins destroyed by Hurricane Ike.



A cabin destroyed by Hurricane Dolly.

Tips to Remember

- ◆ Please remember, if you are rebuilding your cabin as a result of hurricane damage, the cabin must be rebuilt to the approved footprint, and any special conditions in the permit must be followed. All derelict structures and pilings not used in the rebuilding process must be removed.
- ◆ Any changes that alter the square footage of the cabin or associated structures require prior written approval. You may be fined for making any unauthorized changes.
- ◆ Trash and debris should be disposed of in a safe manner. No burning or hiding of materials is allowed; you can be fined and your permit terminated if you are caught.
- ◆ Cabins are to be used for recreational purposes only. Money cannot be accepted for use of the cabin or in conjunction with any commercial operation. Commercial use may result in termination of your permit.
- ◆ Transferring a permit: If you would like to transfer your permit, please visit our Web site at <http://www.glo.state.tx.us> and click on "Need information or applications" and then select the "PC Transfer Request Form." This form will need to be signed by the current permit holder and notarized and e-mailed or mailed to our Austin office (please see contacts).
- ◆ Corps of Engineers (COE) Dredging: The GLO staff has no control over the dredging of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. The Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) for the Laguna Madre section of the GIWW can be found at <http://www.swg.usace.army.mil/items/laguna>. We will continue to inform permit holders about any known upcoming dredging events, and we will work with any permit holders if cabins are impacted.
- ◆ There's a blog site run by and for permit holders at <http://texascabin.blogspot.com/>. You can post fishing information, e-mail other permit holders, talk about general information or building material ideas, etc.
- ◆ Please report cabin break-ins to the county sheriff's office, which is the law enforcement contact for the cabins. Please let GLO staff members know of any break-ins as well. By working together, we can hopefully deter further incidents.

Permit Holders



Bill Mullinax, of PC1036, took this shot of his friend, Jim Haidinyak from Round Rock, in March 2009.



Art Barkis, of PC1121, got this picture of his friend, Alan Whitton, one Sunday morning while tailing reds.



The Helm family, of PC1439, is shown here. From left: Steve Helm Jr., Jack Harrison Jr., Ray Helm II, Wade Helm, Ray Helm Sr., Shane Helm, Jack Harrison Sr. and Steve Helm Sr.



John Stevenson, of PC1579, and company caught more than 50 redfish near the cabin in Corpus Christi Bay. Pictured from left are Mark Sims, Pat O'Toole, Eric Scott, Tony Alvarez and J.J. Stevenson.

Recipes

Salmon Dip

by Trish Savage of Professional Services

- 1 can red salmon
- 2 - 8 oz. pkgs cream cheese
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 1 tsp dill seed
- 1/2 cup green onion
- 1/2 cup cilantro
- parsley as desired
- crackers

Mix salmon (bone and skin removed) with softened cream cheese. Add remaining ingredients. Sprinkle with parsley. Serve with crackers.

Curry Shrimp

by Wool Lee of Professional Services

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion chopped
- 2 celery sticks chopped
- 2 sticks carrot chopped
- 2 medium potatoes chopped
- 6 cups water
- 1/2 box curry sauce (Golden Curry Sauce Mix)
- 1/2 lb. boiled shrimp
- 3 cups cooked rice or noodles

Stir-fry onions, celery and carrots in olive oil. Add water and potatoes. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat, cover and simmer approximately 15 minutes. Remove from heat, add curry sauce mix and stir until completely combined. Add shrimp and serve over hot rice or noodles.

Seafood Salad

by Naoma Bryant, Corpus Christi Field Office

This may be prepared either with mashed avocados like guacamole and served with chips as a salad/dip or with chunks of avocado for a tossed salad served on romaine. It's good either way.

- 3 large, ripe avocados
- 1 cup cooked shrimp or crabmeat
- 1 cup pitted ripe olives, sliced
- 1 cup thinly sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1/2 cup minced celery
- 2 tbsp green onion, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp lemon juice

Dressing

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise or Miracle Whip
- 2 tbsp tarragon vinegar
- 1 tbsp chopped parsley
- 1/4 tsp dill weed
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp onion powder
- 1/2 tsp pepper

Attention Lower Coast Permit Holders **Update for the Contract Term Length Adjustment Plan or “Leveling Program”**

We would like to thank the permit holders who were a part of the “Leveling Program.” Thanks to your participation, GLO staff is already seeing positive results in terms of workload management. Previously, one half of the 320 lower coast cabin permits expired in the same year. Through the issuance of shorter contract terms (1-4 years), we are able

to ensure that a consistent number of cabins renew each year. This helps permit holders because it allows us to manage the program in a more cost effective manner. As a reminder, if you were a part of this process and received a shorter term, your \$175 contract renewal fee was prorated. The next contract you receive will be for the standard five-year term.

Asset Inspection Field Office Staffers



Corpus Christi Field Office Cabin Staff

Pictured from left: Amy Nuñez, Rene Garcia, Jennifer Stephens, Jason Zeplin and Kathryn Tunnell. Not pictured: Naoma Bryant.



La Porte Field Office Entire Staff

Pictured from left: Mike Van, Wanda Wilkerson, Felice Skillern, Irene Allen, Colleen Roco, Tara Mealy and Jeff Davis. Not pictured: Virginia Kennedy, Mollie McIver, Sam Floyd and Melissa Van Horn.

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